(vii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme titled 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has also been launched;

(viii) Cotton Technology Mission launched to improve the productivity and quality of cotton;

(ix) Imposition of a combination of *ad-valorem* and specific duty on "whichever is higher basis" on import of a number of textile items to safeguard the interest of domestic industry;

(x) The facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50% extended to weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS;

For boosting exports of textile and clothing Government provides financial assistance to Textile Export Promotion Councils under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme;

Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

300. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been extended by three years;

(b) if so, the reasons leading to this extension;

(c) what is the share of fund given to the Handloom Sector; and

(d) the new proposals, if any, for promoting Handloom Sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime reasons leading to extension of TUFS include:

(i) Positive impact of the Scheme on technology upgradation of the textile industry;

(ii) Need for modernisation of the industry to face the challenges of globalization in Post Quota Regime;

(iii) Facilitating modernisation of entire value addition chain, particularly weaving and processing segments.

(c) Under the TUFS there is no cap on funds for any sector of textile industry. However, no proposal has been received from the Handloom Sector.

(d) For promoting modernisation of Handloom Sector, there is no new proposal under TUFS. However, the existing scheme for technology upgradation in the Handloom Sector for the current Plan period is "Research and Development". This scheme provides financial assistance for the following purposes:—

(i) Research.

(ii) Survey.

(iii) Design, Documentation and Development

(iv) Technical improvement/Development.

(v) Providing equipment such as computer etc. for design of Technical Development, innovation In Government set up.

(vi) Formulation of strategies/devices for produce development related to handloom development, quality upgradation, marketing and dissemination of information through training programmes/seminar etc.

(vii) Any other proposal to encourage development in handloom sector, through investigative work, empirical work etc.

(viii) Extensive research into technological and organizational aspects of the handloom industry.